

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1. Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-40 and 46 are presented for examination.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-40, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,446,579 ("Inamori").

As amended, claims 1-5, 7-18, and 46 recite a medical device in the form of a stent, a stent-graft, a graft, a medical balloon, or a catheter. But Inamori does not disclose or suggest medical devices that are covered by claims 1-5, 7-18, and 46. Inamori discloses "a flexible ceramic bio-implant member designed to make effective redintegration of joints, bones, and teeth". (See, e.g., Inamori, col. 1, lines 10-12.) Inamori does not disclose or suggest a medical device in the form of a stent, a stent-graft, a graft, a medical balloon, or a catheter. Accordingly, Inamori does not anticipate claims 1-5, 7-18, and 46, and Applicant requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 19-25 recite a medical device in the form of a stent, a stent graft, or a graft, the medical device including a ceramic fiber intertwined with a non-ceramic fiber. But Inamori does not disclose or suggest medical devices that are covered by claims 19-25. As discussed above, Inamori does not disclose or suggest a medical device in the form of a stent, a stent-graft, or a graft. Furthermore, while Inamori discloses that his bio-implant member includes "a bundled body of a plurality of ceramic fibers" (see, e.g., id., Abstract), Inamori does not disclose or suggest a medical device including both a ceramic fiber and a non-ceramic fiber, let alone a ceramic fiber intertwined with a non-ceramic fiber. Accordingly, Inamori does not anticipate claims 19-25, and Applicant requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 27-29 recite a medical device having a structure including a mixture including a polymer and ceramic fibers; claims 30-32 recite a medical device having a structure including a first layer including a polymer, and a second layer including a ceramic fiber; and claims 33-40 and 46 recite a medical device having a tubular structure and a polymer element on the tubular structure, where the polymer element includes a ceramic fiber. Inamori fails to disclose or

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suggest a medical device that includes a mixture including a polymer and ceramic fibers, a structure including a layer including a polymer, or a polymer element including a ceramic fiber. Accordingly, Inamori does not anticipate claims 27-40, and Applicant requests that the rejections of claims 27-40 be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons provided above, Applicant believes that claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-40, and 46 are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Please apply any charges to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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